सेना के अन्यतम नायक व्लादिमीर लोमिको ने कहा था कि युद्ध हमारे लिए सिर्फ विलाप और विषाद का विषय नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: सरला जी प्लीज कन्क्लूड कीजिए।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: फासीवाद, नाजीवाद को मटियामेट करने की गौरवमय स्मृति भी है। हम युद्ध को भूलना नहीं चाहते, क्योंकि हम युद्ध नहीं चाहते। उपसभापति जी, आज की विशिष्ट परिस्थितियों में जब एक बार फिर दुनिया के विभिन्न देशों में फासीवादी शक्तियां सिर उठा रही हैं, हमने स्वयं अपने देश में देखा कि किस प्रकार फासीवादी ताकतों ने गुजरात में भयंकर जनसंहार किया था, उसके अनुभव को हमें नहीं भूलना चाहिए। .. (समय की घंटी)... और इस परिप्रेक्ष्य में मैं सरकार से आह्वान करना चाहूंगी कि हमारे देश की जो साम्राज्यवाद विरोध की, स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन की परंपरा है, आज के दिन हमें उस परम्परा को याद करते हुए, यह संकल्प लेना चाहिए कि हम साम्प्रदायिक फासीवादी ताकतों के खिलाफ अविराम संघर्ष चलाते रहेंगे और पिछले दिनों एनडीए सरकार के काल में सांप्रदायिक ताकतों ने जिस तरह हमारी लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं में घुसपैठ की और जो उनकी मर्यादा थी, उसको भंग किया, मैं सरकार से आह्वान करना चाहूंगी कि उन सब संस्थाओं की मर्यादाओं की फिर से रक्षा की जाए। उन संस्थाओं में जो केसरियाकरण किया गया है, जो भगवाकरण किया गया है, उसके खिलाफ लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं को फिर से एक लोकतांत्रिक मर्यादा दी जाए। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, मैं आपका शुक्रिया अदा करती हूं।

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Situation arising out of the large scale devastation caused by Tsunami on 26th December, 2004.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, in this august House, we are discussing an unexpected human tragedy, which occurred on 26th December. At the outset, I would pay homage to thousands of victims who lost their lives in this unexpected tragedy.

Sir, tsunami is a new kind of natural calamity, which we never faced before in our country. I have had the opportunity to visit some of the tsunami-affected areas. Of course, not only me, right from the Prime Minister to a good number of Union Cabinet Ministers, social activists, State Ministers and MPs had also visited and extended all kinds of support to victims of this tragedy. While we are discussing this tsunami issue, there are two things that we have to discuss seriously. One issue is the failure in assessing the situation and to provide sufficient warnings, which would have been more helpful to extend rescue work. Sir, it was reported that when tsunami tidal waves started in the eastern part of Asia, the U.S. Tsunami Warning Centre at Los Angeles had detected the arrival of tsunami,

but it did not know whom to inform about it in India. It means that we do not have a system to assess this kind of seismic problems. So, this is the important issue, which we have to discuss.

Why did it happen? We have developed science and technology; we have developed atmosphere and ocean sciences; and our country also claims that we have the third largest number of scientific community in the world. Only day before yesterday, we complimented our scientific community in this House. Till now, we do not know why we failed to given sufficient warning to the people. This was an international tragedy. In our country, it occurred first in the Andamans, then after six hours, it came to Tamil Nadu, and then another two hours later, it came to Kerala. We were not in a position to provide sufficient warnings to our poor people who were staying in coastal areas. Had we been able to given sufficient warning, we would have been in a position to evacuate larger number of population. This is an experience, which we gained. At a later date when we got the information about tsunami again from the Central Government, the Ministry of Science and Technology, people were evacuated. Nothing happened because now a system was there. It was all due to the initiative of the Government. Once a tragedy occurred, then from that experience, we can give warning and do rescue work in future. That is possible. Why I am discussing this matter here in this House, because we have a failure in this country not only in the case of tsunami but also in all kinds of natural calamities that have occurred, whether tornado or any such incident. We do not have a system to protect our people. If such kind of natural calamity as this takes place in the Western countries, they are able to evacuate their people. They will be able to save the lives of the common men. In India, so far, we do not have any such devices to protect or evacuate our general public from the natural calamities even though we do get sufficient information in advance. So, from the experience of tsunami, what the Government is going to do with regard to developing a system in our country to evacuate the people and save their lives from natural calamities?

Similarly, Sir, immediately after this natural calamity, our Government has decided to start some new systems. The Science and Technology Minister told that they are going to install some systems in Sumatra and they are going to introduce some new warning system, and we have allotted some money also. While discussing this matter in this august House, I would like to know from the Government: What steps are being taken by the Government after this incident? Whatever announcements have come from the Government side, whether they have been

implemented or not? What is the progress which is going on with regard to these technological devices which we have installed in Sumatra?

Then, Sir, with regard to the rehabilitation work, the Government has announced that they would provide sufficient financial support and it was announced that 2,731 crores of rupees have been allotted for the rehabilitation of the tsunami victims. Different State Governments had given suggestions and, I think, it was announced that it would be around 5,322 crores of rupees worth of assistance at the initial stage. Accordingly, different State Governments had submitted rehabilitation proposals and the Central Government allotted Rs. 2,731 crores. I would like to know from the Government whether these announcements have been fulfilled or not, whether this money has been transferred to the States. Normally, whenever there is a natural calamity, these announcements are made; then, the State Governments will submit their proposals; then we will send teams from here; then the red-tapism would be there; and at the ground level, the real victims will not get the benefit. There would be problems. So, with regard to this tsunami this unprecedented natural calamity, whatever the Government has announced, whether it is given to the States, whether it is implemented properly and whether there is any mechanism or not. It was reported from my State, yesterday, when the Chief Minister visited, 50 people asked for relief. It was already distributed there. 50 new applicants came and submitted applications for relief. Immediately, the Chief Minister said that let us go and see the place. The people told him that there was a feeling that everyone would get; that is why, we have given applications. Naturally, that possibility is there. How it is being implemented? How are you monitoring? Whether the money is being misused, that also is there, whether the benefit has been given to the poor men, etc. That is to be ensured.

Secondly, Sir, the children's problem is there. I don't know if there is any specific programme, whether the Government has planned on this issue because thousands of children became orphans, they lost their schooling facility, etc. So, their future is in a limbo. Specific attention should be given for the children who faced these problems because...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vijayaraghavan, please conclude.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Yes, Sir. With regard to that issue, the Government has to give a comprehensive reply as to what they are doing about these children and how they are going to resolve their agonies. Finally, Sir, with regard to the Andamans because we don't have a

representation from Andamans, in fact, no representation in the House. But Andamans has become a victim of this cruel thing; and if we go through the records of Andamans, right from 1941 onwards, this is being repeated there, either earthquakes or something else. Even after this tsunami attack, there were a series of earthquakes. which were reported in newspapers. Sir, I cannot explain in this House how one person lost his both children while holding them in his hands when he was trapped in the tsunami waves. Due to this tragedy, we are losing our culture in Andaman. The lives of our racial groups in Andaman is under threat. Andaman is a place which has been the victim of tsunami and repeated natural calamities. We are losing the lives of racial groups. So, special attention should be given to Andaman, even though, their voice is not reflected in Delhi, in a big way. So far as other States are concerned, of course, they have the representation *(Time bell)*. Many proposals have been sent to the Central Government by the State of Kerala. I hope the Centre would accept them and do the needful. Then, I come to the problems of environment and ecology faced by the coastal regions. We are not giving proper attention to the rehabilitation schemes for the protection of the coastal areas. There should be a comprehensive programme for this purpose. The environment should also be protected. Simultaneously, there should be a rehabilitation pattern in the coastal area of our country. It was reported three days ago that, even now, there is a threat of tsunami in this region. Naturally, the Government has to provide sufficient rehabilitation schemes in the coastal region. At the same time, protection of environment in the coastal region should also be ensured. That specific programme should be announced. I hope this discussion in this House will help to come with some concrete suggestions to face this kind of eventuality in future. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, the lunch break will be after the conclusion of this Short Duration Discussion. So, I would request all the Members to be brief.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Mr. Deputy Chairman, thank you for allowing me to speak on this subject. In fact, we have been pleading for a discussion in this House on the tsunami relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected people after 26th December, 2004 when thousands of people were affected by tsunami in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. At the outset, I am grateful to the hon. Prime Minister, hon. UPA Chairman, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, hon. Home Minister, hon. Finance Minister, hon.

Surface Transport Minister, and to you, Sir, personally, because you had devoted some time to come and see the affected places, and the Cabinet Ministers, who visited the areas and saw the affected people and gave them the solace. Apart from that, the hon. Home Minister immediately announced the funds for carrying on the relief work in that area. Sir, it was a great tragedy. The hon. Prime Minister has very categorically stated that it was a national tragedy. About 10,000 people died, 2,000 kms. stretch of the coastal line was affected, and the tidal waves which were coming from the sea to the shore, they were about 10 metres high. This was explained to us by the people. You might have also heard from the people about the nature of these tidal waves. In the Karaikkal region of Pondicherry and in Patnamchari area, which were visited by you, these tidal waves were 10 metres high. So, from the height of these tidal waves, you can very well imagine the magnitude of devastation. Apart from that, the waves which were coming from the sea side, they went 3 kms inside the land. Most of the damage to life and property was caused at the time when water receded. When water receded, most of the people died. It was a very unfortunate incident. Most of the women died because they drank muddy water. When they drank that muddy water, due to suffocation, some of them died. Some of the women died because they could not run away. Men-folk ran away after seeing the tidal waves coming. But as far as women are concerned, their hands were caught in the bushes, therefore, they could not retrieve from them. If you see the figures relating to deaths, mostly the women and their children had died in the Tsunami tragedy. Sir, 35,000 people had been affected; 1.4 lakh houses had been damaged and 4,200 hectares of cultivable lands had been damaged. When the Tsunami struck, the Central Government immediately, within three or four hours, started taking action. The hon. Home Minister, the Home Ministry, the hon. Prime Minister and the Prime Minister's Office, all started taking action. They got the feedback. The next day, on 27th December, the hon. Home Minister visited all the States which had been affected. He went to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Kerala. He visited all the areas which had been affected. He reviewed the situation and found out how the relief work was going on. The Hon. Home Minister announced, on the spot, the amount of relief to be given to the affected people. So far as the relief work was concerned, the immediate relief that the Government of India had given to the affected people included food, clothing and temporary shelter, which was the need of the hour. To sustain their livelihood for some more days, special aid was also given to them by the Central Government. Sir, the issue that had arisen was to make them go for

their work, to make the fishing community to go to the sea for fishing. They lost their boats and nets. Most of the people who had been living near the coast lost their boats and nets. They were struggling very hard to restart their work. Another relief package was given by the Government to encourage them to restart their work.

Sir, as far as my State is concerned, apart from providing the immediate relief, books were given to the children who restarted going to their schools. Clothes were also given to them. Their school fees was also paid by the State Government. The Government of India gave one lakh of rupees to the family of persons who lost their lives. The hon. Prime Minister made that announcement. The State Government also gave one lakh of rupees. Sir, you will be surprised to know that in our State, with the funds available, and also with the help of the Central Government, we had provided Rs. 4.5 lakhs to the fishermen who lost their bigger, fully mechanised boats—they might have told you about that, on the spot, when you visited those places—and Rs. 3.5 lakhs to the fishermen who lost their smaller, mechanised boats. We had given them Rs. 15,000/- for the loss of catamaran (with engine) or Rs. 20,000/- for bigger catamaran. Like that, we gave money to them, and they had slowly started going to the sea. Now, the task before the Central Government as well as the State Government is to provide, at a safer place, permanent shelter to the affected people. When we were talking to the womenfolk, they told us, "We are happy about the relief that you have provided to us. But we need shelter, for our children, at a safer place. We want the safety of our children." This is what they have been telling us. When we were talking to the men, they said, "You give us land near the coast." But the women were very clearly asking for shelter at safer places. They were living in villages, at separate places, not in a multi-storeyed building. Some NGOs visited those places. Some voluntary organisations had also visited those places. They wanted to construct houses there. They wanted to construct multi-storeyed buildings. But most of the women told them that they had to keep their nets in a safer place, and they also needed some place to live in. They had been living in coastal areas. The Ministry of Urban Development has approved only 800 sq. feet, which is not sufficient for them. I raised the matter when the hon. Home Minister was replying to a question.

I request the hon. Home Minister to consider this aspect, while replying to the discussion. They want spacious houses in safer places, beyond the Coastal Regulation Zone, without affecting the ecology. Those people have agreed on that. Previously, they didn't want to come out of the coastal area. Now, they have agreed that they want houses beyond the danger zone. They have agreed on that. Therefore, there is no difficulty for the Central Government in assisting the State Governments. In my State, 14 villages had been affected and 10,000 people had lost their houses. We started construction of houses in three or four places immediately.

Sir, I would like to point out one thing. When the Tsunami struck, the houses which are inside the coconut gardens and mangroves were not affected much. Even some of the huts inside the coconut gardens were not affected. The houses which were located in barren area, without any garden, were very badly affected and the people died. The coastal areas where there were no trees were badly affected. Now, this is the right time that we should grow a lot of trees and mangroves in the coastal areas, within the coastal regulation area, which would definitely reduce the impact of Tsunami waves that are coming. *(Time-bell rings)*... Sir, I will take only two or three minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. There are a lot of people to speak. We have to wind it up by quarter to two of the clock.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I am surprised to learn that some of the States are saying that a wall should be constructed along the 2,000 kilometres of coastal area. Is it possible? I don't know what happened to the demand of those State Governments. Some of the State Governments have been demanding, "We want Rs. 20,000 crores for it". *(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: Which are those States? *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The hon. Minister knows it. There should be a reasonable demand. If you want to construct a big wall...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, you come to the next point. *(Interruptions)*... You have mentioned about the wall. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I would like to say only that these are all unreasonable demands.

1.00 P.M.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, people should know which are the States which demanded Rs. 20,000 crores.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He said that the Home Minister will answer.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: If mangroves and other plantations are there, it will reduce the effect of Tsunami. That is all what I would like to tell the hon. Home Minister.

Sir, there are two or three areas of concern in respect of rehabilitation. One is the psychological impact on the people. They saw the Tsunami waves taking away their family members. Still, some of them have not come out of the shock, even after the counselling given by the State Governments. That is the psychological impact. Still the fear is there. You will get the Report, Sir. Now most of the people don't want to go to the sea for fishing. The fear psychosis is there.

The Central Government is going to supplement further whatever the State Government is doing. We need a lot of money for their rehabilitation and for the construction of houses. The Central Government has given the funds. The World Bank has given the funds. It should be done on a time-bound basis. It is a job of the State Government. I know that. I want the hon. Minister to set up a monitoring mechanism, because the hon. Finance Minister is providing funds. There should be a monitoring mechanism at the Government of India level. You are giving them the funds. It has to be watched whether the funds are properly utilised or not. Otherwise, the funds will be diverted. As we know, some of the Sates will divert the funds. That should not be there.

Another point is that I have to commend the Indian Army and the Navy. They did a wonderful job. They had done a wonderful job. I would like to give one example in my State. A connecting bridge between Nagur, Nagapattinam and Karaikkal collapsed because one boat came and hit that bridge and it gave way. Within four hours, the Indian Army laid a Bailey bridge and the road became functional immediately. But, unfortunately, some States criticised the work of the Army also. They said that the Army took away the dead bodies and burried them.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, please conclude. You have already exhausted your time.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I am concluding. I would like to submit two-three small points.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are repeating your points. Please conclude.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I am not repeating the same thing. So far as the Natural Disaster Management is concerned, it is a very important thing. The hon. Minister is coming forward with a Bill in this Session itself. It is very important because natural calamities like droughts, floods cyclones and even earthquakes are taking place time and again in this country. If the hon. Home Minister brings forward this Bill in this Session itself, we will be very happy.

My final point is about the Tsunami Warning System. There was a lot of confusion about the Tsunami Warning System. As the hon. Member, Shri Vijayaraghavan mentioned, if we had the Tsunami Warning System in place, we could have evacuated the people and a lot of lives could have been saved. Sir, the Minister of Science and Technology says that the Tsunami Warning System would be ready by 2007. Sir, the other day, I told the hon. Home Minister that within minimum possible time people are evacuated in Japan. I requested the Home Minister to send some people to Japan to get the training. Then they can disseminate that information to the people living in costal areas in order to educate them. In the 18th Century, the Tsunami struck us. It has struck us now. We do not know when another Tsunami would come. In Sumatra, time and again, earthquake takes place and people are very afraid. Sometimes, false alarms are also given. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to have the Tsunami Warning System in place within the minimum possible time. In this way, we would be able to save the lives and properties of the people.

So far as the farming community is concerned, they are going to be given some compensation. Sir, they will not be able to cultivate their lands for the next 20 years. Therefore, the amount which has been fixed for compensation, should be increased. Thank you.

श्री उदय प्रताप सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): धन्यवाद, उपसभापति जी। यह जो सुनामी का कहर था ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: आपके पास तीन मिनट का समय है।

श्री उदय प्रताप सिंह: कितना, सर?

श्री उपसभापति: आप अपनी बात तीन-चार मिनट में कम्प्लीट कर लीजिए।

श्री उदय प्रताप सिंह: मैं कम्प्लीट कर लूंगा, सर। ...(व्यवधान)... महोदय, मैं बस एक ही बात कहता हूं कि दूसरों के दर्द में भी शामिल हुआ जाता है। आदरणीय उपसभापति जी, मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूं कि हमने प्रकृति-विजय के बड़े-बड़े दावे किए थे। हम जब बात करते हैं तो यह कहते हैं कि हमने प्रकृति पर विजय प्राप्त कर ली है, विज्ञान ने सारी कुदरत को अपना गुलाम बना लिया है, लेकिन जब इस तरह का कहर आता है, तब हमारे जो बड़े-बड़े दावे होते हैं, उनकी पोल खुल जाती है। इसके लिए इस सरकार को, उस सरकार को, या किसी जिम्मेदार व्यक्ति को दोष देना ठीक नहीं है। एक बात हम जरूर कहना चाहते हैं, वह यह कि जिस प्रकार की चेतना अब आई है, इस कहर के बाद, लाखों लोगों के चले जाने के बाद, इसी तरह अगर हम पहले से थोड़ा-सा सचेत होते, जैसा कि हमसे पहले के वक्ताओं ने अभी बताया, तो कुछ लोगों को बचाया जा सकता था। उपसभापति महोदय, जो चले गए उनके लिए हम शोक व्यक्त कर सकते हैं, उनकी आत्मा की शान्ति के लिए प्रार्थना कर सकते हैं, लेकिन जो इस कहर से न तो मरे हैं और न जी रहे हैं, उनकी चिन्ता करना और उनकी हिफाजत करना, उससे भी ज्यादा जरूरी चीज़ है। यह हमारे देश का बड़प्पन है कि जिस समय यह कहर आया, तो जहां पर सरकारी मशीनरी सक्रिय हुई, हमारी सेनाओं ने और जल सेना ने बहुत ही सराहनीय कार्य किया, वहीं तमाम संस्थाओं ने, जो तमाम एन॰जी॰ओज॰ थे, जो सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता थे और जो आम जनता थी, उसने भी बड़ी मदद की। इन सब से उन पीड़ित लोगों को हिम्मत बंधी कि यह पूरा देश उनके साथ खड़ा है। इस प्रकार का संगठन जो एकाएक हुआ, हम भविष्य के लिए इसका भी लाभ उठा सकते हैं और इन सब को संगठित कर सकते हैं। इससे पीड़ित जो तमाम बच्चे हैं, जिनके मां-बाप नहीं रहे, जिनके पास खाने को नहीं रहा, ये हमारे देश की दौलत हैं, उनकी कोई गलती नहीं थी। इसे कुदरत का कहर या प्रकृति की सनक-कहें, वे इससे पीड़ित हैं। इसलिए हम सब का, सरकार का, और जितने संबंधित लोग हैं, उन सब का ध्यान उनके पुनर्वास पर, उनके स्वास्थ्य पर, उनकी शिक्षा पर और उनको हिम्मत बंधाने के काम में जाना चाहिए। उन्हें पीने के पानी तक की समस्या हो गई, खाने की समस्या हो गई और बच्चों की पढ़ाई की समस्या हो गई।

उपसभापति जी, मैं अपनी बात ज्यादा नहीं बढ़ाउंगा। मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं कि जहां अच्छे लोगों ने मदद की, सेना ने और जल सेना के लोगों ने दिन-रात काम करके एक अलग और अच्छा उदाहरण प्रस्तुत किया, और भी कई लोगों ने मदद की, वहां ऐसे असामाजिक तत्वों की कमी नहीं थी, जो इसमें भी अपना स्वार्थ देख रहे थे और बेईमानी का काम कर रहे थे। उन्होंने खूब बेईमानी की भी है। अखबारों में आता था, प्रेस में आता था, सब जगह आता था, तब बड़ी तकलीफ होती है। उससे भी ज्यादा तकलीफ तो तब होती है कि जब उसमें सरकारी कर्मचारियों की मदद की बात सुनने को मिलती है। महोदय, बिना सरकारी कर्मचारियों की मदद के, बिना कुछ ऐसे लोगों की मदद के, जो मशीनरी के बड़े महत्वपूर्ण पुर्जे हैं, यह काम नहीं हो सकता। इसके लिए हम एक ही बात कहेंगे कि सरकार इस प्रकार का कोई एक सिस्टम बनाए, जिससे जब कभी-भी

इस प्रकार का प्रकोप आने को हो, तब उनको जल्दी-से-जल्दी सचेत किया जा सके। हमने तो अखबारों में अभी पढ़ा कि उनके पास सही पता नहीं था कि किसके पास सूचना भेजी जाए। इसी चक्कर में वह सूचना पहले वाले मंत्री जी के पास चली गई। उन्होंने भी चिन्ता नहीं की कि वह उसे सही जगह भेज दें और इसमें ही तमाम लोगों की जानें चली गईं। ये सारी बातें दोबारा न हों, इसके लिए हम सचेत रहें। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपना वक्तव्य समाप्त करता हूं और आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं कि आपने मुझे अनुमति दी।

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, tsunami had hit our country on 26th December, 2004. We had a discussion on the floor of this House on 10th March, 2005, and then the statement of the hon. Minister was given to the House on that day wherein he stated certain facts. As per the statement, a total population of 27.92 lakhs had been affected; 1,089 villages were destroyed; 10,273 people lost their lives, and 5,823 people are said to be missing. What happened to those people? Has any information been collected by the Government? If they have not been traced so far, what is the action taken by the Government in closing the cases pertaining to them? This is one thing.

Sir, there are two or three other aspects. One thing is, now that the relief work is over, the next question is their rehabilitation to a safer place. During the debate on 10th March, we had put certain pertinent queries. Firstly, with regard to the warning system, what is the action taken by the Government during the past four or five months regarding the early warning system? And there are reports that two hours before tsunami affected our country, there was information to the Government on this. But the Government did not alert the people.This could have saved many lives if not the property. Later, there was another warning by the Home Ministry which was contradicted by the Ministry of Environment and Science and Technology. There was conflict amongst the Ministries. And, because of second warning in the country, there was a lot of panic amongst people. I do not know what exactly the reason is which prompted the Home Ministry to issue the warning without consulting the Ministry of Environment and Science and Technology. They went ahead and issued the warning which created another panic in the country. I would like to know one thing from the Government. There was a meeting held at the official residence of the hon. Prime Minister on the 9th of January. All of us had attended that meeting. We were given an assurance that the Government would come forward not only with a Bill on disaster management but also with an early warning system of our own, without joining the other countries which

already possess such equipment. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps taken to fulfil the assurance given at this all-parties meeting by the hon. Prime Minister.

The other aspect is that the worst sufferers have been the fishermen. Today's *Times of India* carries a news-item, 'Debt Trap Awaits Tamil Nadu Fishermen'. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what the problems of the fishermen are. They are getting assistance from the Government with the help of the banks. It seems, going by the news-item, bankers are creating some hurdles in the disbursement of loans. Since the fishermen have been the worst sufferers, there should be a total package for them and that package should be implemented soon. Their dwelling houses that are going to be built in future should be at safer places. The other aspect is, there are many news-items regarding the systemic failure. The existing disaster management bodies need an overhaul in the country. We have certain satellites at our disposal, but they did not work and they did not help the administration by giving any early warnings. Regarding tribals, and the Andaman's agony, there have been a lot of news-items. My party leaders went to the Andamans. Mr. Rajkumar and others had visited the Islands. Now, many Telugu people live in the Andamans and Nicobar Islands. There are thousands of people who have been the worst sufferers in that area. Even today, the tribals have not been properly rehabilitated. There are news-items that they are rejecting the relief offered by the Government since it is not suitable for their livelihood and for their future. I would like to request the hon. Home Minister to throw some light over the problems being faced by the tribals in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, as also of the Telugu people who are mostly from the Srikakulam and Vijayanagaram districts.....(*Interruptions*)... I am coming to Tamil Nadu people also, who are, I am aware, the worst sufferers. (*Time-bell*) Yes. I had said in the beginning that more than 10,000 people have died, and they are all Indians. I agree. But, at the same time, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what exactly is the request made by the Tamil Nadu Government. What is the amount released to Tamil Nadu? I also want to know whether the relief and rehabilitation is in tune with the expectations of the people of that area. We should be enlightened on all these aspects. Finally....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Ok ok.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, since this has been

the biggest ever disaster...

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Andhra Pradesh has also been affected, Sir. You should keep this in mind. When Mr. Narayanasamy could speak for half-an-our, we should, at least, be...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Each party has its time. Mr. Rajkumar, you should know. You are an empanelled Vice-Chairman. His party has the time.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, whenever there is any disaster in the country, people say that it is the Tsunami again. So, this has created a lot of panic in the country. Sir, I request the hon. Home Minister to extend the relief to the four districts of Andhra Pradesh, namely, East Godavari, West Godavari, Nellore and Guntur which have been badly affected, apart from the people of Srikakulam and Vijayanagaram who are living in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and who have also been badly affected. Relief should be extended to them. In Andhra Pradesh, we have specially suffered with regard to roads, dwelling houses and fishing boats. I request the Government of India to come forward and extend all possible help. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the amount received by way of tsunami relief fund. Since many hon. Members, on the request made by the Chairman and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha,.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is not under the purview of the Home Ministry.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: It is a suggestion. This is not a demand.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is not under the purview of...

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: I agree, Sir. Since we are discussing about Tsunami, the relief received by the Government should be spent in a proper way, at needy places and for the benefit of the needy people. This is my suggestion.

Finally, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister regarding having an early-warning system in place; bringing forward the Disaster Management Bill at the earliest and rehabilitating the fishermen, since they are the worst sufferers of the Tsunami. As far as the problems of fishermen of Tamil Nadu are concerned, they should be rehabilitated at the safer places.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: I also make a request for creation of a special fund at the national level, apart from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. To manage disasters at the national level, the amount under the Fund should be increased and that Fund should be placed at the disposal of the concerned Chief Minister, whenever a calamity arises. With these words, I conclude, Sir.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Sir, this is an issue of grave concern to the people of this country. In fact, people from all over the world responded when this disaster struck different parts of the world and also the southern parts of our country. Sir, in this connection, there is no need for me to explain it or get into any controversy about the relief work or other things. It is necessary that there must be coordination between the Centre and the State Governments in their activities, especially when the implementing agency is the State Government. When the State Governments become the implementing agency, it is for them to see that it is implemented in proper manner, with better coordination rather than accusing each other. That is one point which I wanted to make. Unfortunately, in the media, there are a lot of unnecessary stories and unwanted controversies by different State Governments, in this regard.

Sir, the Tsunami did not originate in our country. We are at the receiving end. It happened in the area of the Indian Ocean, not in the Pacific Ocean. It is true that Los Angeles or some other cities or Australia get Tsunami warning in advance because whatever mechanism they have, it gives information to the Pacific Ocean area, not to the Indian Ocean area. That is why the countries in the Indian Ocean suffer more than the countries located in other areas. I have to make a suggestion to the hon. Minister. As already discussed in the ASEAN countries or the SAARC countries, it is necessary for all the countries of this region to have an early-warning system so that we can also know about it in advance. It cannot be done by India alone. It has to be done in some other areas. Countries like Indonesia, etc., are prone to Tsunami and earthquakes. So, it is necessary to have the early-warning system established in and around Indonesia. So, our scientific efforts and the efforts of international scientific community should be put together in this regard. Different countries of the world are also ready to have a joint effort in this regard. So, our initiative must come for this joint effort, especially coordination among all the countries in the Indian Ocean area.

Sir, the other thing which I want to say is, my district Alleppey and my own *taluka* was affected by the Tsunami. As far as the relief work is concerned, the Kerala Government has done very good relief work there. It has been appreciated by the people there and more relief work needs to be done. In this connection, I have just two suggestions to make. There is a complaint from the fishermen that they are not getting adequate relief. Some children have lost their parents in the Tsunami. They have also lost their school bags, books, uniform and every thing. So, they need all kinds of assistance in order to go to school. Secondly, all the fishing equipment of the fishermen have been lost. It should be given to them because it concerns with their day-to-day life. Without it, they cannot generate any income.

Sir, the other thing we heard on visiting these areas was about the need to have a sea wall. They told us that wherever there was a sea wall, there was no death. The people in the coastal areas of Kerala believe that a sea wall can prevent damage to life and property from Tsunami in future. So, construction of a sea wall is the most important thing which is agitating the mind of the people living in the coastal areas of Kerala. I hope, the hon. Minister would consider it.

Sir, lastly, I would like to say something about the Andamans. I heard, I may not be authentic; that all the relief work is going on in Andamans from the Government of India because it is a Union Territory under the control of the Central Government. It shall not be a gold mine for contractors. A proper monitoring must be there. With regard to Andamans, in the past also, there are a lot of complaints against the administration. Many times the complaints have come. I am only saying what I have heard. I do not have the records to produce. But the Government must be very cautious. Tomorrow, it can come as an allegation or complaint. So, the Government must look into this. It is a fact that with all our efforts Tsunami cannot be prevented because it is a natural calamity. The only thing is to save the human lives, especially the lives along our coastal line. That arrangement must be there. In this connection, I repeat my appreciation. I congratulate the Indian Navy for staying at the location. They could do work not only in India but also in Sri Lanka and Maldives. The Government of India rose to the occasion and has done its best. The Prime Minister and the Ministers have done their best. They have filled confidence in the minds of the people of this country. They made everyone feel that they are not alone. The Prime Minister has said, "I am with you, you are not alone." That is one of the best sentences of the Prime Minister.

I hope, with the spirit of coordination and cooperation, the State and the Central Governments must act. Do not make it an issue, as certain State Governments have done. Unfortunately, they have made it a politics. Their politics will not help the poor people, affected people. So, come out of politics, cooperate with the Centre, go with the Centre. They would get whatever they have to get.

I once again congratulate the Government for all of their efforts. Thank you.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kerala): Sir, almost all hon. Members have expressed their grave concern regarding Tsunami and its aftermath. Sir, Tsunami, or the underwater earthquake or the submarine earthquake, has affected thousands of people all over the world and our country, especially the southern part of India.

I would like to say a few things. One is regarding the early warning system. Because of the lack of this early warning system, most of the coastal areas and people have been adversely affected. If there is a proper mechanism to give an alert or warning, definitely, so many lives and property could have been protected.

Secondly, I would like to say something on the broad-based disaster management authority. After the Tsunami, there was an utter confusion among the people, on the part of the Government as well as on the part of authorities, to see how rehabilitation and relief measures are to be taken up, how immediate relief measures are to be taken up so as to protect the people from this calamity. The hon. Home Minister, in an all-party meeting has assured on these two things, that these will be taken care of by the Government. Regarding the global system of early warning, India will immediately join in the global system so as to have this privilege, so as to have this facility available in the country. I would like to know its status or position.

Secondly, on the broad-based disaster management authority, it is assured in the all-party meeting that a Bill enabling the formation or constitution of Disaster Management Authority would be brought in the Budget Session of Parliament. This is the last week of the Budget Session, but, so far, no draft Bill has been circulated among the Members so as to have a discussion or awareness regarding this Disaster Management Authority.

Coming to the main point, post-tsunami management, rehabilitation and relief measures to be taken, I believe this rehabilitation and relief measures are being entrusted to the Planning Commission. I would like to point out a very important fact in respect of this. What is the nature of Planning Commission now-a-days? I would like to say that Planning Commission has now become a dumping ground of retired bureaucrats having less credibility. It also can be seen in this case. All these things are there. The appointments in the Planning Commission are meant for the retired IAS people. It has become a dumping ground for the retired IAS bureaucrats. For example, Mr. *who is a retired officer of 1965 batch ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do not take the names of those persons who cannot defend themselves here ...*(Interruptions)*... You can say 'a member of the Planning Commission'. Why are you taking names?

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: A retired IAS officer of 1965 batch has been entrusted with this responsibility and has been appointed as the head of the tsunami relief operation. This is the way in which they have been appointed. He is a US citizen also. After his retirement he has opted for the US citizenship. He has acquired it also. He has been appointed as the head of tsunami relief operation. So, this is the way in which the Planning Commission is dealing with the things. That is why I am putting this before the Government and that is why I have mentioned it. The third point is regarding the coastal zone regulation. It is an essential part of preventing intensity of the natural calamities in the coastal areas. The coastal regulation management is a very,very urgent matter. Unfortunately, the last Annual Report of the Water Resources Ministry (*Time-bell*) I am concluding within two minutes. In the Annual Report of the Ministry of the Water Resources, they have not allocated even a single paise for taking care of the vast coastal area of this country. In the last financial year, the Water Resource Ministry had allocated Rs. 14 crores for the regulation and management of coastal areas. This amount has been given. But, unfortunately, this year's Annual Report of the Water Resources Ministry goes to show that this year the coastal management will be done by the external funding. External funding means by other ways - by the World Bank or the Asian Development Bank or whatever may be source. I seek an explanation on this matter because coastal zone regulation and management is an inevitable factor to prevent calamities like tsunami. Another point that I want to make is that we are encouraging FDI and FII.

*Not recorded

It is being reported that there are a number of special economic zones in the coastal area. This area is to be left for the safety for these economic zones. If an exemption is given and if 500-metre area is to be left for the safety of the coastal area as a whole, such exemption will also cause repercussions in future affecting the protection of the coastal areas. Regarding rehabilitation, I would say that more than three months have elapsed. Temporary rehabilitation is okay. But I would like to say something about the psychological rehabilitation of the children who have become orphans, the destitute women and fishermen. Psychological rehabilitation has to take place. Temporary rehabilitation is almost over. As far as permanent rehabilitation is concerned, according to my experience in my State, it has not yet been completed. It has been pointed out by Mr. Vayalar Ravi also. I was there in Alappad in Quilon district and I was there in Azhikkal in Alleppey district. It has been experienced that wherever there is a strong seawall, the damage caused there was less and the number of people who died was also less. The anti-erosion work done by construction of this seawall has reduced the damage. It has been our experience. My point is that till 1993, the Planning Commission allocated funds to the State Government so as to take up this anti-erosion work. After 1993, there was no fund allocation for the construction of seawall, which could serve as a means of anti-erosion work. My point is that this anti-erosion work has to be funded by the Central Government and Plan allocation has to be made for the protection of the coastal area. Regarding permanent rehabilitation, I would say that it has to be speeded up. Regarding the finances, even the hon. Home Minister has assured this House that money and financing is not a problem. For all purposes, money is not a problem. So many NGOs and other organisations are coming forward for help. But they all have an apprehension or a doubt whether this money would reach the real beneficiaries and to the real persons who are affected by this tsunami. That is why I would like to point that the allocation for relief operation should be made in a transparent manner. So many NGOs are collecting money. (*Time-bell rings*) I am concluding

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: So many dailies, newspapers and television channels are collecting money. Nobody knows where this money is going. Some newspapers are collecting money and giving it to the Chief Ministers' Relief Fund and some are giving it to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. So there is no actual accounting for this. So, I would like to know from the hon Minister whether it is transparent and whether any

accounting is being done for this. All these matters should be taken care of. With these words I conclude. Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Malaisamy, I had called your name. Now, you should confine to the timing. It is five minutes.

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu): For all other Members you gave half-an-hour.

MR.DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, they had time. My request is, we have to complete the discussion. Only then we will be breaking for lunch. You will be holding others.

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Are you breaking for lunch or not?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, only after concluding it. Still three more speakers are there. So be brief.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am extremely thankful to you for enabling me to join with my colleagues who have already portrayed the menace and the measures of tsunami but the greatest injustice that you have done to me is to call me at the time when everybody is craving for lunch. So I am in between. Whatever it is...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, your name was called much before the lunch time.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: In India, of all the States which have been affected by tsunami, the worst hit was firstly, Tamil Nadu and secondly, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Sir, without repeating how the tsunami occurs, how it starts, how it came, I will go into it direct. Mr. Deputy Chairman, has been very kind enough. So, I will try to conclude as quickly as possible. This is a new experience for Tamil Nadu. In the past, we have not come across any such thing. We are told that tsunami which occurred in Sumatra has travelled at the rate of 700 to 800 kms per hour with ten metre height. With such a furious and ferocious tide — we call it as a killer wave or a tidal wave or whichever name we call it — tsunami came and ravaged the entire Tamil Nadu in the sense that 13 districts have been ravaged. Not only that, the number of villages affected is 373 villages. The number of families affected is 3 lakh families. The number of dwellings, affected, is 1.5 lakhs. The crop damaged is 2589 hectares. The total number of deaths is 7885 and the injured are 3324. Cattle population lost is 5477. Persons evacuated are 4401. The total number of boats damaged by virtue of catamarans is 24,055 and *Vallams* is 8879. The mechanised boats

damaged were 4000 and fishing nets several thousands. What I am trying to highlight here, Sir, is when we compare with All India figures and the figures of Tamil Nadu, the total number of loss of life in India, 10,755 for the entire country, and the total number of missing is 5000. The number of villages affected is 1000 and odd. The total number of dwellings lost in All India level is 1.72 lakhs whereas in Tamil Nadu it is 1.5. Out of 1000 and odd villages affected in the country were 373 were from Tamil Nadu and out of 10,000 and odd people who lost their life, nearly 8000 were from Tamil Nadu. What I am trying to highlight here again and again, Sir, is the damage caused in T. N. was very extensive. As many as 13 coastal districts have been affected. Sir, on hearing information that tsunami struck Tamil Nadu, immediately, our Chief Minister made an aerial survey on the next day and the-day-after and surveyed all the affected areas and met all the victims. She had motivated the workers and implementing agencies on the one hand and gave moral boosting to the victims on the other.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: She had done only an aerial survey!

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Why cannot Narayanasamy wait and listen to me? ..*(Interruptions)*... This is the problem with Narayansamy.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, this is not a debate between the two parties.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I am narrating the facts as to what had happened.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is a very serious debate ..*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Narayanasamy, you are delaying the debate ..*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: She made an aerial survey. In any disaster situation, there will be a crisis management. She organised men and matters with top speed and coordinated with all the authorities and formed into a group. All the Defence Services were pressed into rescue, relief and rehabilitation services. The first stage of rescue and relief was done with top speed. Sir, the hon. Home Minister, who is here and we are very eager to hear him and we had seen him in action, He was able to express freely, 'what had been done in Tamil Nadu is okay.' The Central Team, appointed by the Central Government, came and surveyed the affected areas. After seeing the massive devastation in Tamil Nadu, due to tsunami, the Central Team appreciated the Tamil Nadu Government. So, there was an all round appreciation from all quarters, except a few TV Channels here and there

which tried to highlight minor lapses. In a situation like this, one should be highly civilized and ethical. Even if there is a small lapse, they should not highlight those minor lapses. This is the basic thing which they should keep in mind. In a situation like this, I have to pat and praise the hon. Home Minister and the Central Government who have come all out to extend every possible help to Tamil Nadu. The Government of India said, "Whatever help you want, you take Do you need the Defence services? Take. You need money. You take. We are here." The hon. Prime Minister has been nice enough to say, "In a situation like this, money is not the criteria. You go all out to help the people." After having taken a hint from all, our hon. Chief Minister had taken all out steps to help the victims. I am not saying this because our Chief Minister has done this. I only say that if anyone has done his job excellently well, we should have a minimum sense to appreciate him.

After having done the first stage of rescue work, the work of rehabilitation starts. After the rescue, temporary relief operations will follow. It is not adequate. Permanent rehabilitation or permanent restoration, for their livelihood is essential for which we are making all out efforts. Since the time at my disposal is very short, I will be very brief. The hon. Home Minister is well aware of what the Government of Tamil Nadu is doing. The Home Minister has asked us to go all out and also said that he would extend the necessary financial and other assistance to Tamil Nadu. So, our Chief Minister put extra efforts to rehabilitate them. In the process of rehabilitation, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is facing a lot of financial constraints. The Central Government is on record saying that the money is not the major hurdle in relief and rehabilitation. So, looking at this positive response, the Government of Tamil Nadu sent a proposal for Rs. 4,800 crores for various schemes. I can list out all the issues. For want of time, I don't do that. The Government of Tamil Nadu also requested for 54,000 mt. of rice. This is one of the demands made by the State Government. The Central Government says, 'we have approved rice requirement.' I would like to ask a well-meaning and efficient Minister, Home Minister to tell us what exactly are the recommendations made by the Central Team for the State of Tamil Nadu and how much money has so far been given. So, what is the quantity of rice recommended by the Central Team? If I say that you give me so much money, you feel that I have exaggerated the amount. So, I would like to know how much the Central Team recommended for Tamil Nadu.

I will take only two minutes to conclude my remarks. In a situation like

this, my core representation is this. Sir, the core points of my presentation are: One, the temporary measures are over and a permanent restoration is necessary for which we need money. We had sent a proposal. How much money you are going to give, as per the recommendation of the Central Team; (2), we have already taken up not only rehabilitation and restoration, but we are also giving psychosocial support. So, whatever needs to be done, the State Government is doing. They will not come to you for it. (3) Then, one thing has emerged from a survey that many women and children had died because they did not know how to swim. Had they known swimming, they would have saved their lives. But what has happened has happened. We have to think what best can be done for future. Can we take up swimming, as a part of curriculum, at the national level? It is for the Minister to think over it. (4) So far as damage is concerned, there was a huge loss of life and property. But the most affected segment was the fishermen. But people, other than the fishermen, like the people working in the salt fields and other such persons had also been affected. A huge portion of agricultural land had also been sand-casted. The Government of Tamil Nadu has assessed the damage and sent it to the Central Government. Will the Central Government be liberal enough to give grants? (5) Then, coming to the most important point, my colleagues have also mentioned about it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This should be your final point.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: It is about the early warning system.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Everybody has spoken about it. You associate with them.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the pity is that the Central Warning Centre at Los Angeles had predicted that such and such thing was going to happen. But, unfortunately, they did not know where to convey the warning. So, this major disaster could have been averted had there been an early warning system. I don't blame anybody. But this is a grey area that has totally been left out. And, this grey area has to be bridged.

Then, coming to next point ..*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You said that you had just one more point. So, please conclude.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I am going to conclude. (6) My last point is regarding orphans and widows. Many children had become orphans during this natural disaster. They lost their parents. Many ladies had become

widows. There should be some special package for them. The Government of Tamil Nadu has sent a proposal. The hon. Minister may think over it as to what can be done.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You please conclude.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I saw a news item that a Bill on the Natural Disaster Management Authority is going to come up. But we like to see how quickly it is coming.

In short, the Third World Countries are inadequate in governance. They are managing it very poorly, as far as the safety aspect is concerned. This observation is not only with regard to India, but all the Third World Countries. We have to see as to what can be done on this count.

So, these were my random thoughts. With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the time is over. But there are another four names. I will give each Member two minutes. They should adhere to the time. Mr. Natchiappan.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, Tamil Nadu is the worst affected area.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Everybody knows it. ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: But it is the worst managed area also. Even three days after the Tsunami, none of the Government officials moved in to help the people. Only the voluntary organisations and people themselves, including Christians, Muslims and Hindus, went there before. ..*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You just seek clarfications. ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, I went to the Nagercoil area. ..*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Natchiappan, you come to the point. ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, I am coming to the point. ..*(Interruptions)*.. I am just building up the matter. That's all. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Since the Government could not do ..*(Interruptions)*.. I can give the example that during that period the Nagercoil Collector was transferred because of his inefficiency. The Nagapattinam Collector was also transferred, and a new Collector from Thanjavur was appointed. ..*(Interruptions)*..

That is the point. ..*(Interruptions)*.. This shows how much mismanagement was there. ..*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Natchiappan, please come to the point.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, I am coming to the point. ..*(Interruptions)*..

DR. K. MALAISAMY: What is wrong with the Government? ..*(Interruptions)*.. Should we not do it? ..*(Interruptions)*.. If that is done. ..*(Interruptions)*.. That is the correct way to do it. ..*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Malaisamy, that is an administrative matter. Please don't raise that point.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, I am just coming to the point. You can very easily find out this. They could give the information about how many bodies were recovered, but they could not give the information about how many missing bodies were there. Till now the Tamil Nadu Government has not given, on record, figures of the missing bodies. That means, a lot of mismanagement is there. In Nagapattinam, near the Velankkani Church itself, more than 4000 people were sleeping on the seashore at night. They have not been found. Their bodies could not be recovered. And they could not collect the information. Their data collection is totally poor. The people who were really affected were not given the benefit of relief works. Bogus people came and mobbed the officials. Therefore, there should be a system to find out the people who really suffered losses. ..*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Malaisamy, please sit down. ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, he is distorting the facts. ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, another very important point is about private donors. From throughout the World, plently of money; dollars are coming to Tamil Nadu. But the State Government is not interested in finding out who is managing it, how much money is coming, and what projects are they taking up. New houses are hired now, new people are hired now, and plenty of money is dumped there. But they are not at all worried. Therefore, I would request the Central Government to find out and verify how much money is coming, what proposals are being taken up, and how much human resource is being utilised.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; okay. ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Who are they? What is their background? New rich people are coming up because they are getting sympathy from the international bodies. Therefore, that should be properly regulated. *(Time-bell rings)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shir Shunmugasundaram.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: There should be a clear data about how much money is coming, and for which project it is being given.

Finally, Sir, I want to mention about orphans. Many children are on the streets now. They were not propertly protected. They were not taken into shelters. They were not sent to the schools. Even when people are crying, the State Government is not at all interested in them. They are giving. ..*(Interruptions)*..

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, he is misleading the house. ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: This is too much. ..*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Mr. Malaisamy, you have already said this. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Now, what you said, has already gone on record. Then, why are you saying it again? ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: They are projecting the picture of the Chief Minister, Ms. Jayalalithaa by distributing food packets. They are not worried about helping the people. ..*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shunmugasundaram. ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Therefore, I request that there should be a clear data collection; and there should be adequate compensation, by the Central Government, for the affected people. ..*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shunmugasundaram. You have only two minutes. ..*(Interruptions)*.. This is a very serious discussion. Please avoid criticising each other, and seek some clarifications. It will be good for the people who are watching. Let us not involve ourselves in just criticising each other.

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we have talked enough on this subject. Sir, there are several Press reports about the

effects of Tsunami, the damage done due to it, the relief measures taken by the Government; both the State Government and the Central Government. Sir, several voluntary organsiations have come forward, and several contributions have been made. Sir, to start with, the DMK, on its part, — the President of the DMK Party was in hospital, he was admitted to a hospital at that time, and Madam Sonia Gandhi visited him — the very next day of Tsunami, immediately offered a Rs. One crore from the funds of the Party and that was ..*(Interruptions)*..That was the beginning, and funds started flowing. Everyone was magnanimous. Even the affected people the fishermen were happy that so many funds were coming through the Non-Governmental Organisations. Sir, the hon. Member, Mr. Natchiappan, was correct in saying that two district collectors were transferred for their total inefficiency. Let us not go into that. The Government machinery, at the grass-root level, could not reach the people and pass on the relief measures. That was the scenario in Tamil Nadu, at that time. Sir, three areas were most affected. First is the agricultural land. Its fertility was affected. That will tell upon our agricultural producers in future. Secondly, children were orphaned. Those orphaned children have to be rehabilitated. Sir, there is a hot news in Tamil Nadu that children are being kidnapped and are being sent away to other countries. So, this is the background. At present, a lot of investigation is going on, and there is no dispute about it. Sir, such a thing should not happen to these orphaned children.

Sir, the third aspect relates to schools. The schools in the coastal areas have been the worst affected. Most of the school children are unable to continue with their education. The schools have been dislocated. That is why even the Board exams were postponed. In the rest of the areas in Tamil Nadu, the Board exams were conducted on a particular date, but in the Tsunami-affected areas, the Board exams were conducted on a different date. I only urge the Government to impress upon the local Government there to give some concession to these school children. Number one, immediate measure which should be taken is to pass them and promote them to the next higher class, without any strain. They should not be demoted or detained in the existing classes. They should not be affected psychologically. Then, even in the Board exams, they should not be affected. They must be given some grace marks.

Sir, as regard the fishermen, the damage done is the most, and they want their tools. It is not the first time that I am making this plea. They

want their tools, namely, the fishing nets and boats. This has to be done by the Central Government immediately. Sir, a number of NGOs are coming forward, but the problem is, the local authorities are not premitting the NGOs to hand over the relief measures, because they also want their shares. ..*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, okay.

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Therefore, Sir, I request the hon. Minister to concentrate on these areas.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Gireesh. Just seek the clarifications please.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI (Andhra Pradesh): Okay, Sir. Sir, the epicentre of Tsunami was near Sumatra. What we are all discussing here is the apparent visibility of the devastation that it caused in the coastal area. But if we go into the details of Tsunami, what is Tsunami, how it occurred and what really happened, we will find that there was a great earthquake under the sea, on the Richter scale of about 9+, and due to the impact of that earthquake, a big cavity occurred, and that cavity was almost as big as the Himalayan ranges. Because of that impact, the sea, 12 kilometre deep sea, started moving towards the land, with a speed of ..*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please speak about the relief measures initiated for the Tsunami-affected people and not on any other issue.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: I am trying to come to that only.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Because the hon. Home Minister has to go to the other House also after giving the reply.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Sir, this is the first time I am speaking in this august House, kindly allow me.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. You have spoken earlier also Anyway, please go ahead.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: The speed with which the sea was moving was 500 kilometre per hour and with that speed, the whole sea came and hit the land surface area, especially, the Indian coastal area, which we are talking about. Its impact was, the whole earth plateau was shifted. What I am trying to bring to the notice of the hon. Home Minister is that we are studying the waves and their impact on the shore of these

areas, but my concern is, as to what really happened in that cavity and what will be its impact in the subsequent days, that also needs to be studied. That also needs to be studied.

Sir, there is another point which I would like to make. We have great ancient literature with us; we have the Vedas and the Puranas. We have got literature that was written about 4000 to 5000 years back. There are a lot of references to these kinds of natural calamities in those literatures. If we could study the literature available with us, may be we could find some solution. Apart from that, we have a great science of astrology. They predict so many things. We could also take astrology into consideration to find some solution; we could find some clues.

Another area, which could be studied, is the great sense of animals and birds. They have stronger senses than the human beings. They exhibit some signals during such natural calamities, especially the dogs and birds. If we can get some sort of a study done on these, it would definitely help us to give early warnings. The people living in Andaman & Nicoban Islands have got a lot of experience in this area because of which they could save many lives. If we could get some more information, through the experience of the elderly people, perhaps it would be of help to us.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, conclude.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Okay, Sir. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I would like to thank you for allowing this debate to take place in this House. I would also like to thank the hon. Members who have participated in this debate and have highlighted the important issues, which should be considered by us. I would take this opportunity, again, to thank members of the Armed Forces — the Army, the Navy, paramilitary forces — and the officers and NGOs, who have done a great job in helping the people at different places in our country. I would also like to express thankfulness on behalf of the Government and the people of India to all the people and Governments in other parts of the world, who have expressed their sympathies to our people and for their willingness to help the victims of this disaster.

Sir, initially, we concentrated on giving relief to the people who were victims of this disaster. The first few days we had to extricate the bodies of the deceased persons and cremate them. The second thing, which we

2.00 P.M.

had to do at that time, was to provide them with shelter, food, clothing and things like that, which we did. The second stage, the second phase, was that of providing them some relief, which could last for a few months, and even a few years. The second phase involved constructing temporary houses. We have been asking the State Governments to construct sheds and temporary dwelling units for the victims in their States, such as in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry. Even in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, this was to be done, and I am happy to inform this House that temporary sheds have been constructed in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Nearly 90 per cent of the dwelling units are occupied by the victims; 10 per cent of the dwelling units are yet to be occupied by the affected persons. But within 10 or 15 days all the requirements of the people over there will be met. I am told that the temporary houses which are constructed in Andaman and Nicobar are so good that the people who have come to live in those houses have said that these are very good houses and they would like to continue living in those units forever. But those are meant for them to be used for two or three years to come, which is the period which would be required for constructing permanent houses in Andaman and Nicobar. In Andhra Pradesh, in Tamil Nadu and in Kerala, they have used the local material for constructing the temporary dwelling units and, I think, people have shifted into those dwelling units. Probably, they are concentrating more on constructing permanent houses rather than the temporary houses and the plans are being prepared and they would like to use them. Sir, as to how this work is being done has to be understood by us. Initially, all the help, which was required by the State Governments, was given to them and, later on, they were told that they should prepare as to what they want to do. So, the State Governments have been asked to prepare the plans for constructing permanent dwelling units for the people who have suffered, to reconstruct roads, to construct power houses and communication system and provide these facilities to them. I would like to say that I do not want to play politics in this House on this topic. I am of the view that all that could have been done by the State Governments has been done. There could have been some difficulties and defects but that does not means that there was any intentional mistake committed by anybody. Whatever they could do, they have done. The Government of Kerala, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Government of Pondicherry and the Government of Tamil Nadu have done well. As far as Andaman and Nicobar is concerned, it is for the Home Ministry to

provide the facilities and we have been doing that. Sir, these kinds of activities have to be carried on through different agencies. Hon Members, while speaking here, spoke about the difficulties faced by the farmers Now these farmers will be given some assistance and the State Governments will be given some money to see that the land which is degraded because of the flooding of the sea water is made cultivable. So, I am told that nearly Rs. 375.95 crores are likely to be made available to the State Governments and to the Agriculture Ministry to see that their fields are made cultivable. There were suggestions made with regard to the difficulties faced by fishermen in different areas. I am not going to give the numbers as to how many boats were destroyed and how many fishermen have to be helped and all those things. I have already given the information in writing as well as orally on the floor of the House, not once but many times. I would like to bring to the notice of this House the amount of money which is likely to be made available for this purpose. About Rs. 1130.97 crores will be made available for this purpose and this amount will be used for giving catamaran—big boats, medium-sized boats, small boats and all these things. Sir, there was a discussion about the construction of roads and bridges. The amount of money, which is likely to be spent for this purpose, is Rs. 1370.01 crores. Now, for restoring the power supply machinery over there, the amount of money, which would be spent, is Rs. 406.87 crores. On water and sewage, we will be spending about Rs. 284.32 crores. Regarding, livelihood and social welfare programme, initially, the money was spent, but now we have made some small arrangement for this purpose also, that is, Rs. 12 crores. On social infrastructure, we will be spending Rs. 587.88 crores. On environment and coastal protection, we will be spending Rs. 828.59 crores. Some hon. Members spoke about the construction of the wall on the sea coast to protect the coast. Now, we are not going to construct the wall. I explained last time also, and this time also, I would like to explain that this is not like a wall that we have over here to stop the flow of water coming to the coastal lands. That kind of wall is not going to be constructed on the coast. There is some misunderstanding about that. But, if one has gone to Mumbai and has seen the Marine Drive, one would have seen the wall over there. Now, these kinds of structures would be constructed at the places where they would be required. Nagapattinam is a place where the people have suffered the most and probably, if an arrangement like the one we have at the Marine Drive, where the people, probably, would not have suffered so much. So, at these places, these kinds of structures can be constructed and mangroves also can be grown at different places to protect

the coast. This way, we would like to protect the coast over there and like to protect the people. In order to encourage tourism also, we are providing Rs. 155.52 crores, and for other things also. For housing, we will be spending nearly Rs. 3014.39 crores. One of the hon. Members wanted to know what is the amount of money which is likely to be given to Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is likely to spend nearly Rs. 4084.79 crores; nearly the amount they require. So, whatever amount is required by the State Government is made available, and what is the method by which we are going to make the amount available? One of the hon. Members wanted to know what was the amount required and what was the amount given. Tamil Nadu was given Rs. 2347.19 crores. Out of this amount Rs. 627.8 crores have been released and out of this amount, the amount which is used is Rs. 468.90 crores. That means, they have the money and if this amount has to be given, it is not necessary that this amount should be given immediately. This amount can be given in phases. This work has to be completed in nearly three years' time. And, if this work has to be completed in three years' time, this year, we will be giving certain amount of money; second year, we will be giving certain amount of money; and the third year also, we will be giving certain amount of money. So, the stand taken by the Government of India that money is not going to be a problem to help the people, is the stand we have continued. The total amount of money which will be required for providing rehabilitation is nearly Rs. 9870.27 crores, but I would say nearly Rs. 10,000 crores are required. Sir, if ten thousand crores of rupees are required, it is not necessary that this entire amount of money should be made immediately available to them today or whithin one month's time. As and when they require this amount, this amount of money can be made available to them. There is no point in saying, take the money, keep it in the banks and don't utilise. As they utilise the money that has been given to them, this money will be given. But, Sir, I would like to say that money is not going to be the problem.

Sir, we are trying to deal with this problem in a scientific manner. We have constituted a Core Group in the Ministry of Planning and that Core Group is looking at the requirements in different areas, for example, what is the requirement in agriculture, what is the requirement of the fishermen, what kind of construction has to be done to repair the roads that have been damaged, what kind of construction we require today to see that jetties become functional, what kind of work has to be done to repair the airports, how many houses would be required to be constructed, what kind of design should be used, what kind of town planning has to be

done, how the houses will be supplied with other facilities like power, roads and all those things. Now this Core Group is consulting the State Government, the experts and also the experts and the officers in the Ministries in the Government of India. It has nearly completed the plan and that plan will be presented to the Cabinet. The Cabinet will approve it and the work will go on. But, Sir, the work is not stopped. We have given some funds to the State Government; *ad-hoc* sanctions have been made, they are utilising the things, and, the work is going on. So, I am sure that we would like to make use of this calamity and we would like to reconstruct the house, the villages and the areas in such a fashion that they look modern. In Latur, earthquake took place and it took 3 to 4 years to reconstruct the entire area. When one flies over that area now, one thinks that one is flying over some area not in India but some area in a foreign country where proper planning has been done, proper construction has been done. Now the same thing we would like to do here also. That is the only information I wanted to give on these points, which have been made by the hon. Members.

I would like to say that if any hon. Member has any suggestions, or, finds that some mistakes are committed anywhere in any manner by anybody, please share it with us. We will make use of their suggestions and information which comes to us, to see that this work is done in a proper manner.

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR (Punjab): Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether NGOs are also going to be involved in all this reconstruction that is taking place after the Tsunami tragedy. Sir, we very politely and rightly declined any offer by the foreign contries. Has any assessment been made as to how much has come in through the NGOs?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, there are some NGOs which have shown interest. We have told them that if they want to construct the houses in a village, we will give them the land; if they want to construct the schools in all the villages, facility will be given to them, and, now, if they want to construct the hospitals, facility will be given to them. But they shall have to decide and they shall have to approach the State Government. As far as Andaman is concerned, the Ministry of Home Affairs will give the permission but as far as the States are concerned, they will give the permission. I must say that they have shown the interest but the main burden is shouldered by the Government.

About 95 per cent burden, 99 per cent burden is shouldered by the

Government. But, if anybody is wanting to contribute, if anybody is wanting to do something, we will certainly help him. I am not touching upon all the points, Sir.

As far as children are concerned, we have decided that the children should remain with their relatives. We have helped them with funds also. We have given one or two lakhs of rupees to each of the children. That amount of money is kept in the bank and they can get that money after they become major, and on the interest, that would be earned, I think they will be able to manage on that. If it is not possible for the relatives to take care of the orphan children, the Government of that area will take care of them. The Government of Andaman and Nicobar will take care of that issue, that problem. The State Governments will take care of that. We have decided that, as far as possible, these children should not be given to the people who are not related to them. They should not be allowed to go to any other countries. If it becomes necessary, we will have them living in hostels. We will make the arrangements for their education. But we would not like them to be taken to other countries where they will not be looked after properly. I am not dealing with all the problems because I have to go to the other House also. They will take objection because I am not being there. So, I am just trying to be brief.

There are two other points which were made here. One point is related to the early warning system. I have already spoken about this in the House. The Government of India has decided to have early warning system. Sir, one of the things, which we should remember, is that the technology, which is required for this purpose, is not fully developed in the world, where the early warning system is available, has also not helped. All the same, the Government of India has decided to have early warning system for this purpose. There is a Department of Ocean Development. There are scientific Ministries, the Space Ministry, Nuclear Energy Ministry, the Electronic Ministry and the Ocean Development Ministry. The responsibility for establishing the early warning system is given to the Department of Ocean Development which is one of the scientific Ministries. And, the amount of money we will be spending on this system, I am told, is Rs. 125 crores. This decision is already taken. They are consulting the experts and other Governments in other countries who have been responsible for establishing the early warning systems over there, and this will be established. I had spoken about this before also.

Some of the hon. Members wanted to know whether we were going to

introduce the National Disaster Management Bill in the House or not. I am happy to inform, Sir, that we have prepared the Bill. That Bill was considered by the Cabinet. Then, it was referred to the Ministers' Committee. The Ministers' Committee has also considered that Bill. Their recommendations have been incorporated in the Bill and the President has allowed that Bill to be introduced in the House. I have given a notice to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, and, may be, that Bill will be introduced only tomorrow, if time is given. So, there is no difficulty. Not only this, Sir, specially the Chairperson of the UPA, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi was very, very keen about this Bill. In fact, in the manifesto prepared, not the last election's manifesto, but the manifesto of the elections which took place previous to that, this disaster management issue was highlighted. She is very keen to see this Bill come, and she has examined this Bill, very, very carefully and also advised us properly. When the Bill will come before this House, I am sure, it will be referred to the Standing Committee. If it goes to the Standing Committee, it will take some time. After it will come back to this House, it will be passed by the House. Then it will go to the Lok Sabha and some time will be taken. We do not want to waste this time also. That is why the Chairperson was very, very keen to see that this system, this management, comes into existence without any delay, without any loss of time. That is why we passed a resolution in the Cabinet saying that administratively this authority would come into existence. We have already taken this up. We are not waiting for this Bill to be passed. The administrative decision has already been taken. And what all that has been provided in the Bill will be the guiding principle for this Disaster Management Authority.

Sir, I would like to say that there will be a disaster management authority at the national level, which will be chaired by the Prime Minister himself. It will have nearly ten members, experts, and the people who know as to how to deal with these things. There will be administrators, scientists, and the experts. Their duty would be to make the policies. The first step they will take is to make policies, policies for dealing with man-made disasters like radiological disasters, chemical disasters, and bacteriological disasters. They would make the policies to deal with the natural disasters like earthquakes, cyclones, floods and things like that. They would like to have the rules made for all these purposes, and then there would be training provided to the officers who will be dealing with it. It is decided that there will be eight battalions of the para-military forces, which would be trained to help the people in floods, in earthquakes, in cyclones

and in man-made disasters also. What kind of training facilities will be given is there.

Then funding is also discussed in that Bill. What kind of funds will be available? There would be a National Disaster Management Fund, which will be readily available to this authority and the Government of India also will be able to give the funds to this corpus. If the international institutions are keen to help in these matters, what has to be done, that also has been provided in this Bill. This is as far as the National Disaster Management Authority is concerned.

There would be a State disaster management authority, which will be chaired by the Chief Minister, and there will be some members also. They would look after the planning, law making, rule making, training and preparing a mechanism to deal with the disasters in the States as such.

Then, there will be a disaster management authority, which will be working at the district level, and that will be headed by the Collector. The planning is the most important thing. When disasters take place, we take some steps to help people. But that is helping the people after disasters take place, and if the Government is not ready, if trained people are not there, if the equipments required are not there and if the people are also psychologically not prepared to face the disaster, it becomes very difficult to give proper assistance and help to people who suffer because of this calamity. So this concept of helping the people after disasters take place, collecting equipments after the disaster takes place is given up. We will be ready with policies, we will be ready with laws; we will be ready with rules; we will be ready with manpower; we will be ready with equipment; we will be ready with funds; and we will be able to visualise what can happen. Where the floods will take place? It is in Arunachal, Bihar and States like that. Where the cyclones have been occurring? It is on the eastern coast. Where the earthquakes have been occurring? Where the man-made disasters take place? All these things will be visualised, anticipated and the preparation will be done; and when, unfortunately, these kinds of calamities and disasters occur, the Government, the entire society and the officers will be ready to help the people and mitigate the disaster. It will not always be possible for the human beings to stop the natural calamities. We won't be able to stop cyclones. But, we can certainly mitigate the effects of the cyclone on the people. For that, we would like to be prepared, and it is for this purpose, the Chairman of the UPA, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, was insisting on it. I would like to give great credit to her for expediting and getting this thing done here. Fortunately, Sir, you

are also very keen about that and, I think, only tomorrow or a day after tomorrow, we are introducing the Bill, not in Lok Sabha, but in Rajya Sabha. Sir, these are the only things about which I could have spoken about—psychological help and assistance which is given to the people. These are very important issues, but they are very complicated issues also. The Government at the national level, State level and the people at large have to help in this matter. And, I hope that, when such disasters and calamities occur, we should join hands. We should forget our politics; we should forget any small thing; and then, we should try to help each other. That is our strength and with that kind of attitude towards life, we would be able to overcome any unfortunate incident or calamity which may happen in future. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned for lunch for one hour.

The House then adjourned at twenty-seven minutes past two of the clock

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The House reassembled after lunch at twenty-seven minutes past three of the clock,

[THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*]

SPECIAL MENTIONS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Santosh Bagrodia. He is not present. Shrimati Kamla Manhar.

Concern over arbitrary Collection of Charges by Private Tour Operators from the Haj Pilgrims in Different Parts of the Country

श्रीमती कमला मनहर (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, मैं सरकार का ध्यान हज यात्रियों को भेजने वाले प्राईवेट टूर आपरेटर्स द्वारा की जा रही मनमानी की ओर दिलाना चाहती हूं। प्राईवेट टूर आपरेटर्स जायरीनों से सभी सुख सुविधाएं मुहैया कराने तथा यात्रा के दौरान खाने-पीने एवं ठहरने आदि के उचित प्रबंध का आश्वासन देकर मनमाना पैसा वसूल करते हैं। लेकिन हकीकत यह है कि उन्हें कोई सुविधा प्रदान नहीं की जाती है। हज यात्रियों द्वारा इस संबंध में हज कमीशन को भी शिकायत की गई है लेकिन उनका कहना है कि प्राईवेट टूर आपरेटर्स पर उनका कोई नियंत्रण नहीं है। इस कारण हज यात्रा पर जाने वाले यात्री भारी कठिनाई और ठगी के शिकार हो रहे हैं। हाल ही में छत्तीसगढ़, मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र से गए 110 हाजियों के साथ ठगी की घटना हुई है। ये सभी हाजी मोमीन हज उमरा टूर, मुम्बई लायसेंस क्र०-एम०एच० 26/05 के द्वारा यात्रा पर गए थे। वहां इन्हें